61 B10

A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCHANGE OF BRISTOL:

Wherein the Ceremony of

LAYING the FIRST STONE of that STRUCTURE;

Together with That of

OPENING the BUILDING FOR PUBLICK USE,

Is particularly Recited.

By JOHN WOOD, Architect.

BATH:
Printed in the Year MDCCXLV.

And Sold by J. LEAKE; C. HITCH, in *Pater-noster-Row*, *London*; and B. HICKEY, in *Briſtol*.

TO THE

CORPORATION

OF THE

CITY of BRISTOL,

THIS

DESCRIPTION

OF THEIR

EXCHANGE

Is Inscribed,

BY

Their moſt Obedient, and

moſt Humble Servant,

JOHN WOOD.

Advertiſement.

CERTAIN Information having been given me, that a Couple of Men, of little or no Reputation, in the Arts of Drawing and Engraving, had formed a Scheme, to themſelves, of Publiſhing A DESCRIPTION of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, even before the Draughts of the Building were reſolv'd on; it ſoon ſet me upon a Work of the ſame Kind, to fruſtrate their Deſigns; and this I at laſt embarked in, as it wou'd enable me, not only to gratify the Deſire of ſome particular Perſons with correct Plans and Elevations of the EXCHANGE, but to give the Merchants and chief Traders of the CITY, an Opportunity, for a mere Trifle, of preſenting their Correſpondents abroad with as perfect a DESCRIPTION of their New PLACE of ASSEMBLY, on Mercantile Affairs, as the Nature of it requires.

WITH this View, I opened a SUBSCRIPTION in BRISTOL, for an Impreſſion of Three Hundred COPIES of my intended WORK, which I extended to a few other Places, for Reaſons already given to ſome of the following

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N. B. The COPIES Subſcribed for, as above, are 300 in Number; and therefore with the Names in this LIST, the SUBSCRIPTION is now cloſed this 23d Day of *October*, 1745.

In the laſt Line of Page 22, *for* C, C, *read* b, b.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCHANGE OF BRISTOL.

PUBLICK Buildings having from the remoteſt Times been Begun, Opened and Named with more or leſs POMP and CEREMONY, according to the USES for which they were erected, I found, in ſearching for the CEREMONY of Begining, Opening and Naming the EXCHANGE in LONDON, the Author of a ſmall poetical Tract, publiſh'd in the Year 1672, and intitled,

GREAT BRITAIN's GLORY:

OR,

A Brief DESCRIPTION of the preſent State, Splendor, and Magnificence

OF THE

ROYAL EXCHANGE,

Complaining to the Courteous Reader, that the particular Circumſtances of Queen *Elizabeth*'s going to that Structure, ſoon after it was firſt built, by Sir *Thomas Greſham*, and dignifying it with its preſent

NAME

NAME, were not Recorded by our Anceſtors: This Omiſſion, and the imperfect Accounts of ſuch as have wrote of the Begining, Opening and Naming the ſame Structure by its firſt Founder, as well as Rebuilders, after the Fire of *London*, made me conclude Poſterity might be concerned in what I now propoſe to offer the Publick, under the Head of

A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCHANGE of BRISTOL.

And therefore under this Head I ſhall deſcend into every material Circumſtance reluting to that Building; it being certain that Precedents in, or relating to Architecture carry their Uſes along with them, as well as Precedents in the Law, or in any other Thing.

To aſcend to the Time when an EXCHANGE in BRISTOL was firſt propoſed to be built, wou'd be going far beyond the Reach of the Memory of Man; but five and twenty Years ago a Structure of that Kind was thought ſo indiſpenſible, that a Scheme to raiſe a Sum to build an EXCHANGE in the Heart of the CITY became one of the Schemes of the Year ſeventeen hundred and twenty: And tho' that Project ſoon had its Period, yet the principal Merchants and Traders of BRISTOL were not long before they prevailed upon the CORPORATION of the CITY to Undertake to carry the Work propoſed into Execution; to effect which it was neceſſary firſt to purchaſe proper Land, conveniently ſituated: But the CORPORATION were ſo far from attempting to do this by endeavouring for a LAW to force *Private People* to diſpoſe of their Properties for the *Publick Good*,

Good, that when they applied to Parliament it was for no greater Power than was juſt eſſential for confirming the Purchaſes which they ſhould make of ſuch as ſhould think it for their Intereſt to ſell their Eſtates on this publick Occaſion, but were incapable by any former LAW of Aliening or Conveying the ſame.

THIS Power was obtained in the Eighth Year of the Reign of his late Majeſty, King *George* the Firſt, A. D. 1721, by an Act of Parliament, intitled,

" AN ACT to enable the MAYOR, BURGESSES, " and COMMONALTY of the CITY of BRISTOL, " to build an EXCHANGE there, for the Conveni- " ency of the Merchants and Traders of that CITY."

THE PREAMBLE to which ACT, being in the following Words, I ſhall here inſert it to ſhew that the Gentlemen who then compoſed the CORPORATION, at the ſame Time they had, by this EXCHANGE, the publick CONVENIENCE of the CITY in View, had likewiſe the higheſt Regard to the ORNAMENT of it.

" WHEREAS the Trade of the CITY of BRIS- " TOL, and the Number of its Inhabitants are of " late Years ſo much encreaſed, that the TOLSEY, " where the Merchants and other Traders meet to " tranſact their Affairs, is not large and capacious " enough to receive them, and being an Open Street, " is very much expoſed to Wind and Weather, and " the Perſons reſorting thither for the Diſpatch of " Buſineſs, are often prejudiced in their Healths, " and always annoyed and diſturbed by Horſes, " Drays, and Carriages, which are continually paſſ- " ing that Way, ſo that the Building of an Ex- " CHANGE where Merchants and Traders may con- " veniently Aſſemble, is highly neceſſary to the car- " rying on of the Trade and Commerce of the ſaid " CITY.

" AND

" AND WHEREAS the opening of convenient " Paſſages to ſuch EXCHANGE, by making a new " Street, or Streets, or enlarging of the Old, will " be of great Uſe and Convenience to the Inhabi- " tants.

" AND WHEREAS the Mayor, Burgeſſes, and " Commonalty of the ſaid CITY of BRISTOL, at " the Deſire of the principal Merchants and Inha- " bitants of the ſaid CITY, are willing to be at the " Expence of Building the ſaid EXCHANGE, and " making and enlarging ſuch Streets and Paſſages " for the Publick Good, and the CONVENIENCE and " ORNAMENT of the ſaid CITY: But in order " thereunto, it will be neceſſary to purchaſe ſeveral " Houſes, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, " ſome of which are, or may be, the Eſtates of " Infants, Femes-Covert, Eccleſiaſtical Corporations, " or other Perſons, who by Law are diſabled to Alien " or Convey the ſame: To the End therefore, that " ſo good and uſeful an Undertaking may not prove " ineffectual, May it pleaſe, *&c.*"

UPON the Principle of the Publick CONVENIENCE and ORNAMENT of the CITY, the CORPORATION extended their Undertaking to a GENERAL MARKET, in Lieu of thoſe Markets which not long ſince incumber'd the chief Streets in the Heart of the TOWN; and the latter End of the Year 1738, they came to a Reſolution to purchaſe proper Lands, and proceed with their intended Works; veſting the Conduct of the Whole in a Committee of Fifteen Gentlemen of their own BODY, of which the MAYOR and the two SHERIFFS of the CITY, for the Time being, were to make Three; and Impowering any Five of them to Act: They alſo Impowered the Committee to Meet, as often as they ſhould think proper; and Ordered, that at every ſuch Meeting, the MAYOR, or, in his Abſence, the

SENIOR

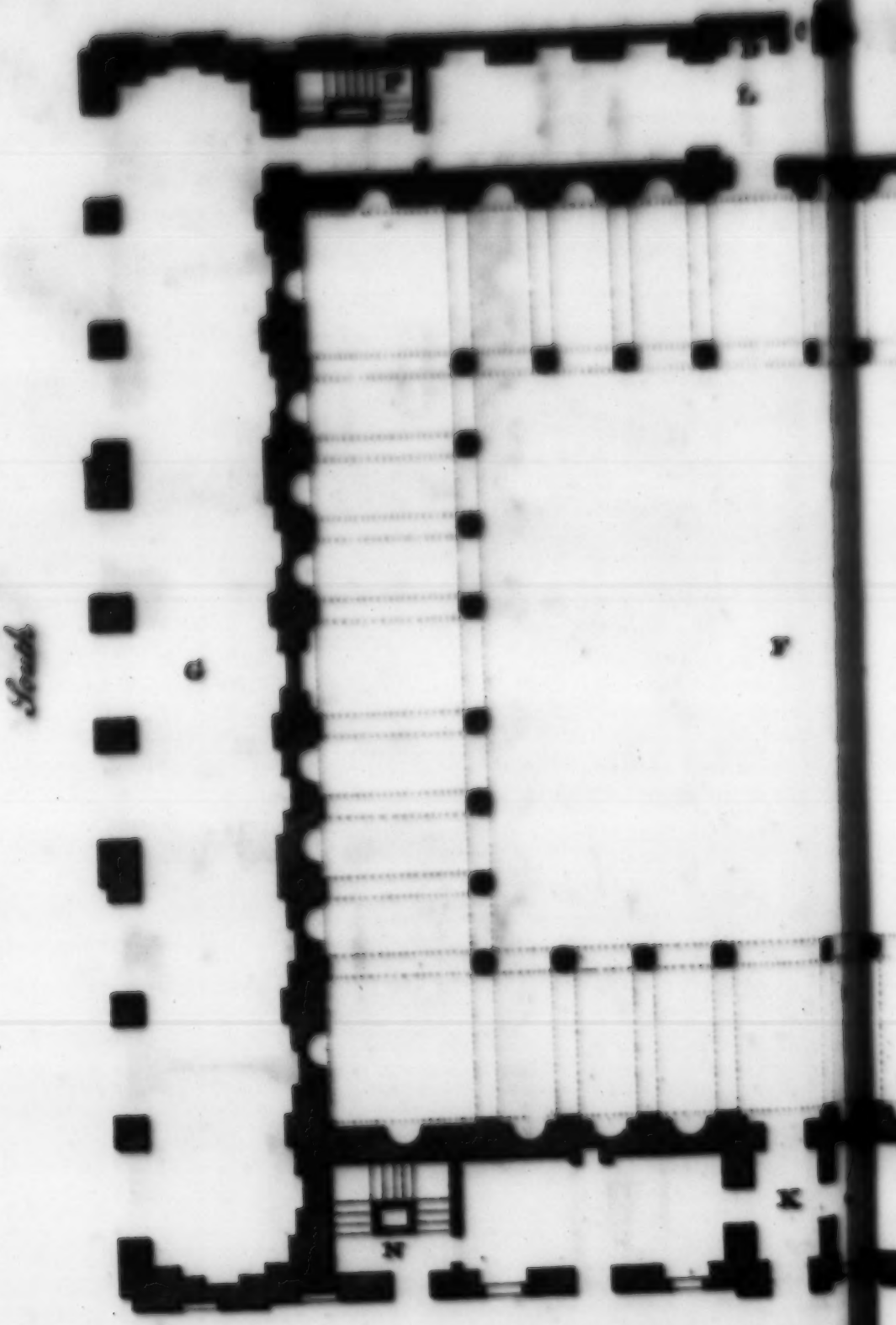
SENIOR MEMBER of the Committee present, ſhould be CHAIRMAN.

THE Committee thus appointed, and thus impowered, having, within the Space of Two Years, and at a very great Expence, purchas'd the *Guilders Inn and Tavern*, in *High-Street*, the *Tuns Tavern*, in *Corn-Street*, the *Rummer-Tavern*, in *All Saints-Lane*, and ſeveral other Eſtates contiguous thereto, pull'd down moſt of the old Buildings, clear'd the Ground of the ſuperfluous Materials, and found themſelves incapable of making any further Purchaſes; they then deſired, by a Letter dated the Thirtieth of *January*, 1740-1, to have a Conference with me; and on my attending them, upon *Thurſday* the Fourth of *February* following, they Agreed with me to be their Architect; giving me, at the ſame Time, proper Inſtructions, to enable me to form DESIGNS for their intended WORKS.

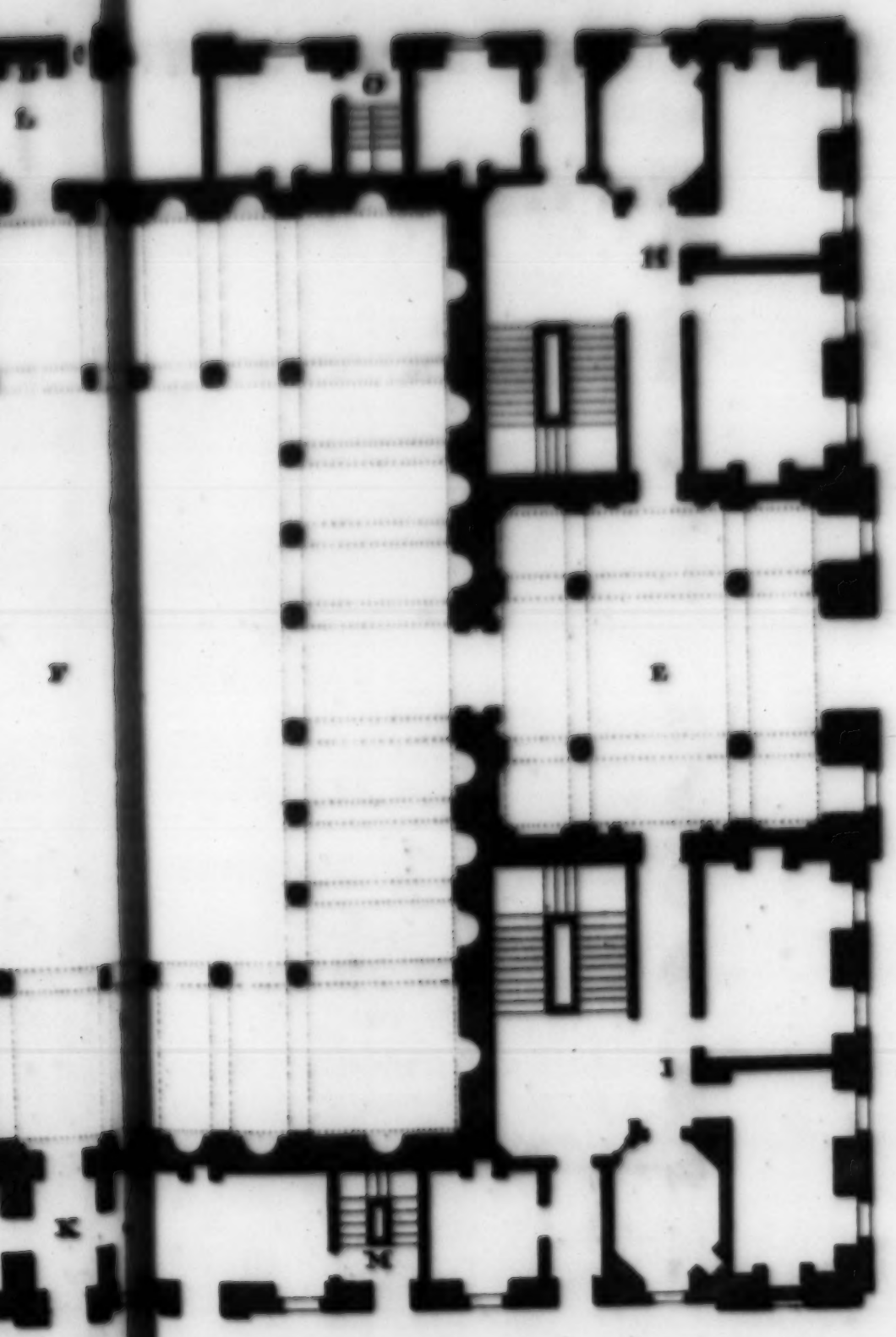
ACCORDING to thoſe Inſtructions, I was firſt to contrive a BUILDING round an AREA, proper for about Six Hundred People to Aſſemble in, in ſuch Manner, as that it ſhould have the outward Appearance of one Grand Structure; and this I was to divide into all the uſeful Rooms that was poſſible, to make the moſt of the Ground to be built upon. This FABRICK was to Front *Corn-Street*, but to be ſet ſo far back, as to make that *Street* two and forty Feet broad before it; and the Committee aſſigned the Front Part of the Building, with moſt of the arched Vaults below, for two Taverns; the Side Parts for Houſes, for Inſurance, or other publick Offices; and the Back Part for an Arcade, *i. e.* Arc-Ædes, with Rooms over it; the former to ſerve, for the preſent, as Part of the GENERAL MARKET; the latter as Additions to a Part of the *Rummer-Tavern*, which then appeared to be ſound, and was therefore intended to have been left ſtanding.

THE Building deſtined to all theſe Uſes was nevertheleſs to be called an EXCHANGE; and the Ground on which it was to be erected appear'd, by an exact Meaſurement, to be one hundred and ten Feet in Breadth, from Eaſt to Weſt, including the Width of a Way by the Side of an old ſhattered Building then belonging to the Hoopers Company of BRISTOL, together with the Thickneſs of the Side Wall of that Edifice: Reflecting therefore upon the Directions given me by the Committee, and conſidering the confined Situation of the Ground to be built upon, as well as its narrow Dimenſions in Front, it ſoon ſuggeſted to my Thoughts an EGYPTIAN HALL, as the propereſt Center for a Building that was to make an Auguſt Appearance in the Heart of a cloſe built CITY; and as the moſt convenient Place for Men of Buſineſs to Aſſemble in: So that the DESIGN which I offered the Committee the next Day for this FABRICK, had, for the PLACE of EXCHANGE, an EGYPTIAN HALL, in the *Corinthian Order*, of eighty Feet ſquare, with a Nave of fifty Feet cube, ſurrounded with a high Building, divided into a great Number of Rooms; of which the following Print, from a Plate, engraved by Mr. *Pine*, exhibits a Copy of the PRINCIPAL PLAN, extending one hundred and ten Feet in Front, by one hundred and thirty five Feet and two Inches in Depth.

THE Wall from A to B was to have been a Party-Wall between the Hoopers Building and the EXCHANGE; C was the Door-Way into the common Hall of that Edifice; and D was a Door-Way to a Cellar under it. The *Rummer-Tavern*, or rather that Part of it which was intended to have been left ſtanding, was likewiſe to have been joined to the EXCHANGE, at the South-Eaſt Corner thereof; by which this Structure would have been attach'd to the



The Principal Plan of the Exchange of



hange of Capitol as it was first Designed A.D. 1720.

the contiguous Buildings of the CITY, both to the Eaſtward and to the Weſtward; tho' it wou'd have ſoared much above them, and, from the diſtant Hills, appeared a detach'd Edifice.

E. A Tetraſtyle Hall of the *Corinthian Order*, intended for an Anti-Room to the Front Houſes H, I, as well as to the PLACE of EXCHANGE.

F. An EGYPTIAN HALL of the *Corinthian Order*, for the Merchants and Traders of BRISTOL to meet in upon Mercantile Affairs.

G. An Arcade, intended to ſerve, at the Firſt, as part of the GENERAL MARKET.

H, I. Houſes intended for Taverns.

K. Veſtibule for a Side Entrance to the PLACE of EXCHANGE.

L. A common Paſſage to continue on a Way from *Corn-Street* to St. *Nicholas-Street*.

M, N, O. Houſes for Inſurance or other publick Offices.

P. Stairs to an Appartment intended over the Paſſage L.

THIS DESIGN ſo far met with the Approbation of the Committee, that they Reſolved to proceed with the Work, conformable to it, and therefore gave me their Orders to direct the Foundation to be inſtantly dug: For they concluded, that this haſty Reſolution cou'd not be attended with ſuch ill Conſequences, as the delaying a Building wou'd create, which was deſign'd for the Preſervation of the principal Citizens, whoſe Healths and Perſons were every Day Endangered, while they Aſſembled in an Open narrow Street, to carry on the Trade and Commerce of the CITY.

WHILE the Foundation was about, it was debated in the Committee, Whether the PLACE of EXCHANGE ſhould be built in the Manner of a large EGYPTIAN HALL, as I had DESIGN'D it? Or in the

the Manner of a ſmall PERISTYLE, to comply with the OPINION of the Citizens in General, then ſtartled with the Novelty of a Covered Place to meet in upon Mercantile Affairs? At length it was Reſolv'd, That the Publick ſhou'd be gratified in that Part of the EXCHANGE which was intended for their Uſe: So that the Committee, waving the grand Outward Appearance of the whole Structure, as well as the magnificent Look of the PLACE of EXCHANGE, not only Ordered the EGYPTIAN HALL in my DESIGN to be turned into a PERISTYLE with very wide Intercolumnations; but the Building on the Eaſt, Weſt and South Sides of it, together with the Porticos, to be kept as low as the Baſement Story of the Front Houſes: They alſo Ordered the Area of the PERISTYLE to be increaſed ten Feet in Length, to make the Porticos at the Ends more capacious than thoſe on the Sides, and thereby give the Company the better Opportunity of enjoying the Benefit of the Heat of the Sun, during the Winter Seaſon, in the North Portico; and of receiving the Advantage of Shade, during the Summer Seaſon, in the South Portico: And they likewiſe Ordered that all the Building behind the Front Houſes, H, I, ſhou'd be covered with a flat Roof; that the Paſſage L, ſhou'd be open at top; and that the Arcade G, with the Pilaſters in the Porticos of the PERISTYLE ſhou'd be omitted.

WHEN new DRAUGHTS were made conformable to all theſe Alterations, the Committee directed me to prepare a Propoſal for the Workmanſhip of the Rough Stone Walls, that Copies thereof might be printed and given out, for all Maſter-Workmen to deliver in their Prices, upon *Thurſday* the Fifth Day of *March*, for building thoſe Walls; and upon the Day appointed to receive ſuch Propoſals ſeveral Workmen deliver'd in their Prices for building the com-

common Walls of the EXCHANGE, the loweſt of which was Accepted and Agreed to by the Committee. This and the Progreſs that was then made in the Work of the Foundation, enabled me to name the *Monday* following as the proper Day for LAYING the FIRST STONE of the Building; but the Quarter-Seſſions falling upon that Day, it was LAID the next, by the MAYOR of the CITY; the following INSCRIPTION having been firſt cut, in the following Characters, upon its uppermoſt Bed:

Regnante Georgio II.

PIO, FELICI, AUGUSTO

LIBERTATIS,

ET

REI MERCATORIÆ

Domi Foriſq;

VINDICE,

Primarium Lapidem hujuſce Ædificii,

Suffragio Civium, & Ære publico extructi,

POSUIT

HENRICUS COMBE, PRÆTOR,

A. C. MDCCXL.

THIS STONE was PLACED at the North-Eaſt Corner of the Building; it was a large Block of Free-Stone of about two Tun Weight; it was covered with a Sheet of thick Lead, the better to preſerve

ſerve it from the Injury of Time, and the Preſſure of the Incumbent Work; and it was ſcarcely LAID before a Copy of the INSCRIPTION, cut upon it, together with an *Engliſh* TRANSLATION of that INSCRIPTION, was Printed and Publiſh'd among the Multitude at that Time aſſembled to ſee the CEREMONY of LAYING it. The TRANSLATION was in the following Words, thus diſplay'd.

In the Reign of

The PIOUS, HAPPY, and AUGUST

George the Second,

PROTECTOR of

L I B E R T Y

AND

MERCHANDISE

At Home and Abroad,

HENRY COMBE, MAYOR,

Laid the Firſt Stone of this Edifice,

Built by the Vote of the Citizens,

And with the Publick Money,

In the Year of Chriſt

MDCCXL.

THE Solemnity with which the FIRST STONE of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL was LAID upon the Tenth

Tenth Day of *March*, 1740-1, ſeems to have been not inferior to that with which the FIRST BRICK of the EXCHANGE in LONDON was LAID upon the Seventh Day of *June*, 1566: For the MAYOR of BRISTOL, after Ordering the Foundation for the Front Wall of the EXCHANGE to be Braced, and Scaffolds to be erected on each Side of it for People to ſtand upon to ſee the CEREMONY of LAYING the FIRST STONE of the Building, Invited the reſt of the CORPORATION, as well as the SOCIETY of MERCHANTS, to be preſent at, and aiding to him in FIXING it.

THE Gentlemen ſo Invited met at the *Council Houſe*, upon *Tueſday* Morning, the Tenth of *March*, the Weather having been then ſerene, mild, and clear; and from thence, when the STONE was ready to be FIX'D, accompanied Mr. MAYOR to the Entrance of the Foundation; from whence I conducted them to the STONE. Mr. MAYOR then aſked me, If it was neceſſary for him to put any Thing under it? I anſwered, That it was uſual to put ſome of the neweſt Coins under the Firſt Stone of a Building; whereupon he threw ſeveral Pieces of Money under the STONE he was going to LAY, and was followed therein by ſome of the other Gentlemen there preſent. I then ordered the Props under the STONE to be ſtruck, that it might fall upon its Bed; after which I preſented the MAYOR with a Mallet to ſettle it; who taking it in his Hand, and turning himſelf about to the Spectators, he acquainted them, *That, he had, for a long Time, wiſh'd for that Day; and that he rejoiced to ſee them there on that Occaſion: That he hoped every Citizen in that and all ſucceeding Ages, would make it his chief Study, and inculcate the ſame Principle in his Children, to promote the Buſineſs, for which that* EXCHANGE *was going to be erected.*——Then ſtrik-

ing

ing the STONE three Blows with the Mallet, he concluded with a hearty Prayer to GOD, *to proſper the Work*, ſurrender'd the Mallet to the firſt ALDERMAN next him, and threw five Guineas upon the STONE, for the Workmen to make themſelves merry with: Three Huzza's were thereupon immediately made, and the Bells in the neighbouring Churches began to Ring.

EVERY Gentleman, who, upon this Occaſion accompanied the MAYOR, gave the STONE three Blows with the Mallet; adding thereunto a hearty Benediction for the Proſperity of the Work: And the Populace, exceeding numerous at that Time, were ſo fond of following their Example, that ſeveral People jumped down upon the STONE, from the Scaffold above, of thirteen Feet high, that their Weight, by their Fall, might contribute towards ſettling it in its proper Bed.

THE MAYOR, the reſt of the CORPORATION, and the MERCHANTS, after ſtriking the STONE, withdrew from the Foundation to the *Council-Houſe*, where they drank Proſperity to the Work begun: In the Afternoon, the Populace were treated with Ale, upon the EXCHANGE Ground, at the Chamber Expence; and to prevent Diſorders in the Diſtribution of the Liquor, a Scaffold of ſix Feet high was erected, to ſet the Barrels upon; this was fenced round, and then proper Men were appointed to draw the Ale, and hand it over to the People.

AFTER the Work was thus begun, it was carried on according to the ſtricteſt Rules of Oeconomy; and with all the Expedition and Diſpatch in Power of every Body concerned in it; the Committee, in the Progreſs of it, firſt Reſolving to build a Gallery over the North Portico of the PERISTYLE; then to make the Houſe marked with the Letter M, in the PLAN of the EXCHANGE as it was firſt DE-

SIGN'D,

SIGN'D, like the Houſe mark'd with the Letter O, in the ſame Plan, and to raiſe both as high as the Houſes H, I, for the Gallery to terminate againſt; next to erect an Attick Story over the Remainder of the Side Houſes, with little Rooms in the Roof over the Eaſt, Weſt and South Porticos; after that to build an Arcade of ten Feet in Breadth in the South Front of the EXCHANGE, with a full Story of Building over it, as well as over the Side Houſes, inſtead of the Attick; then to reduce the Gallery over the North Portico to ſmall Rooms in the Roof; and, in the laſt Place, to increaſe the Arcade to Sixteen Feet in Breadth, that a Gallery might be made more conveniently over it in lieu of that which was intended over the North Portico of the PERISTYLE.

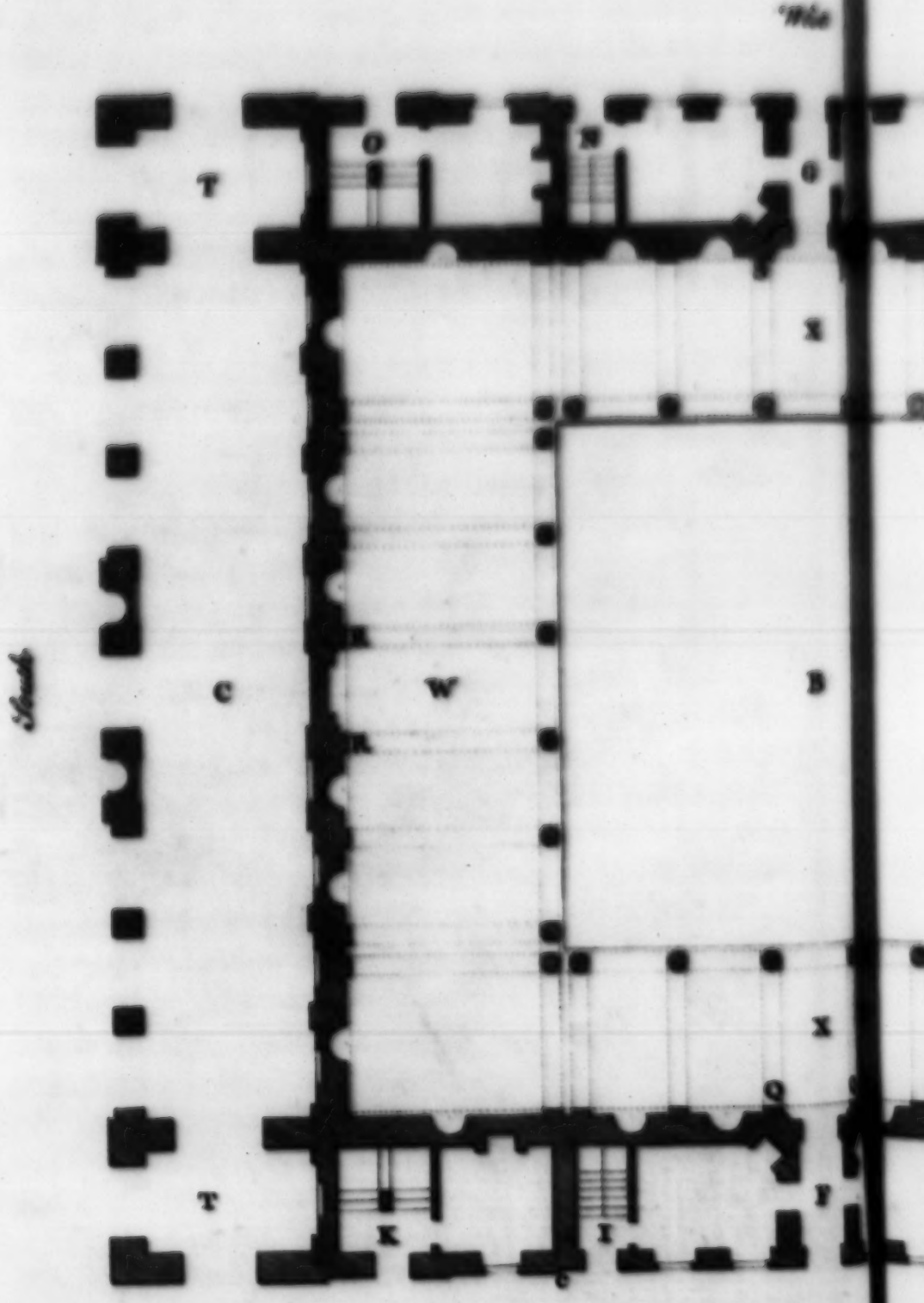
THESE Additions to what was Reſolved on when the new Draughts were prepared, by which the Building was firſt ſet out, not only cauſed a different Diſpoſition in the Side Houſes, from what is expreſſed in thoſe Draughts, as well as in the Original PLAN, but created a few Alterations, from Time to Time, in the Work: So that the whole ſhou'd now anſwer the following PLAN, printed from a Plate engraved by Mr. *Pine*; and the EXCHANGE, as it is now built, extends one hundred and ten Feet in Front, by one hundred and forty-eight Feet in Depth.

THIS Structure is ſituated almoſt in the Center of the CITY; and it Fronts Northward to *Corn-Street*, now two and forty Feet in Breadth; Eaſtward to *All-Saints-Lane*, of ten Feet in Width; Weſtward to *Exchange-Alley*, likewiſe of ten Feet in Breadth; and Southward to the GENERAL MARKET: But the Building was not carried on all together, the *Rummer-Tavern*, in Leaſe for a ſhort Term, breaking in upon the South-Eaſt Corner of it, during the firſt Summer's Work; the Hoopers Building breaking in upon the Weſt Side of it, till the Middle

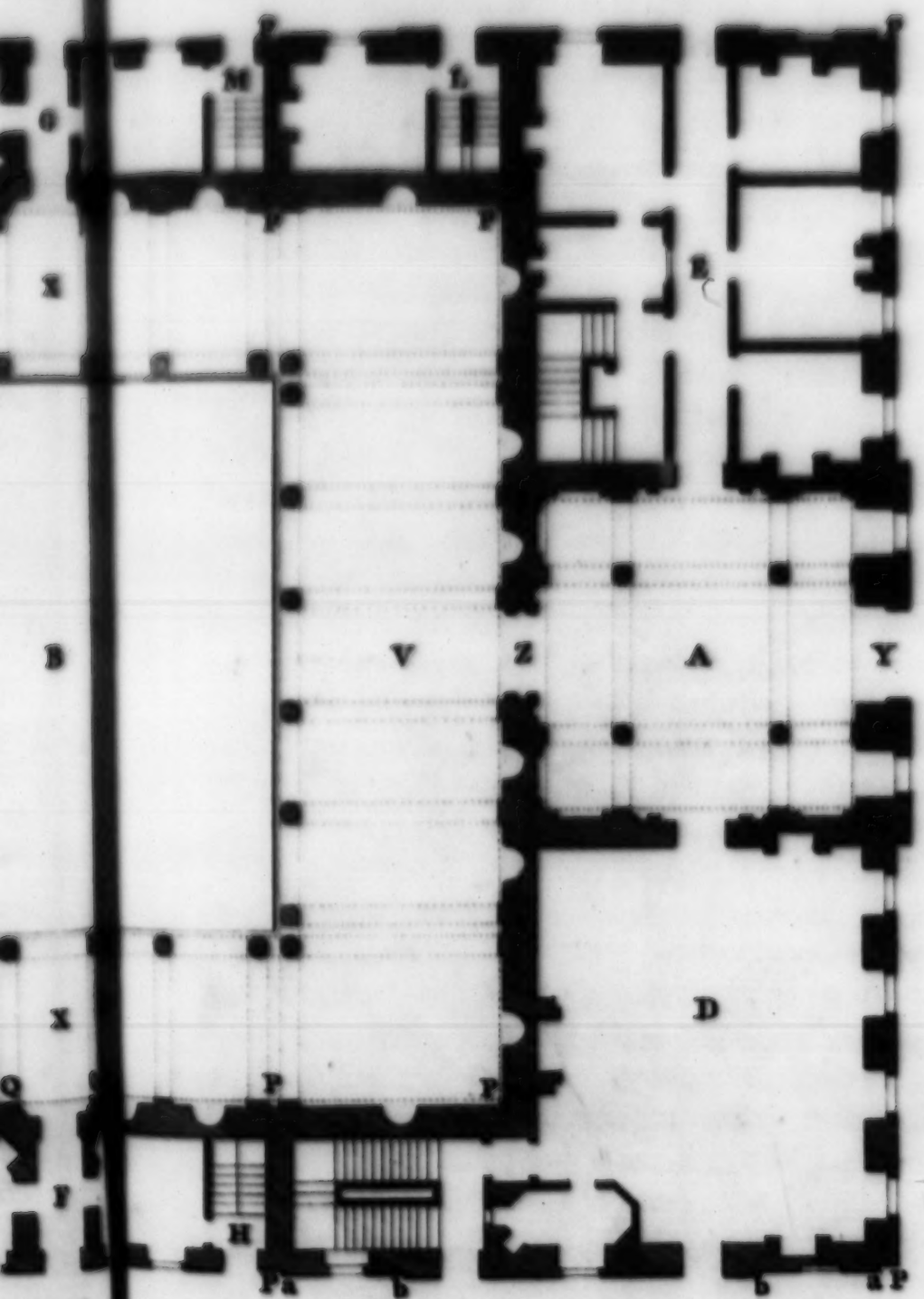
of the third Summer's Work; and the Committee not determining to execute any Arcade in the South Front, till the Work carried on during the Summer of the Year 1741 was raiſed to a very conſiderable Height. Theſe Diſadvantages conſidered, as well as the common Freemen of the CITY claiming a Right of trampling upon the Work, becauſe the EXCHANGE was erecting at the Expence of the Chamber, will ſufficiently anſwer for any Faults that may appear in the Performance of the Ornamental Part of the Building, to ſuch as have Conducted a more correct Structure.

THE Room, mark'd with the Letter A, in the PRINCIPAL PLAN of the EXCHANGE as it is now built, and to which I ſhall for the future only refer, is a Tetraſtyle Hall, of the *Corinthian Order*, eight and twenty Feet ſquare, and executed with Free-Stone. This Room makes the principal Entrance to the PLACE for the Merchants to Aſſemble in, as well as to the Front Houſes; and the Room over it was once propoſed for a Repoſitory for the Records of the CITY; as ſuch the Foundation Walls were built ſo ſtrong, as to be able to ſupport an arched Roof, ſurmounted by a Dome, with a Turrit upon it, whoſe Summit was intended to have been raiſed one hundred Feet high, above the Level of the Street, as the proper Mark of Diſtinction for a publick Structure; and the Whole to have been built with Free-Stone. Within the Foundation Walls of this HALL we made a large Reſervoir for Water, to be ready on any Emergency; and therein I propoſed to fix one of thoſe Engine-Pumps, invented by Sir *James Creed*, of *Greenwich* in *Kent*, for the Uſe of his own Houſe and Gardens in that Town.

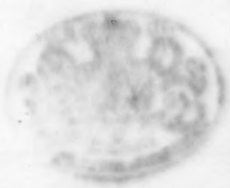
THIS Machine is no more than a common Pump, whoſe Peſtern is made to work perpendicularly thro' a Cap fixed to the Head of the Barrel, with an Air Veſſel



The Principal Plan of the Exchange of



ge of Level as it is now Executed A.D. 1745.



Veſſel by the Side of the Pump, and ſome other ſmall Things. By the Turn of a Cock, one of theſe Pumps diſcharges the Water, as by a lifting or forcing Quality; and I have one of them in a Well belonging to my own Houſe in *Queen-Square* in *Bath*, which becomes an Engine in a Second of Time; ſo that if a Fire ſhould break out within forty or fifty Yards of it, the Water in the Well may be inſtantly raiſed up, conducted by a Leather-Pipe, and forced out to ſtop its Progreſs; which might too far increaſe, while a common Engine is fetching, and putting in order to Play.

B, A PERISTYLE of the *Corinthian Order*, of ninety Feet in Length, by eighty Feet in Breadth, built with Free-Stone, and retaining as much of the lower Part of the EGYPTIAN HALL, in my Orginal DESIGN, as was conſiſtent with the Conveniencies that, from Time to Time, were pointed out to me, to be provided for in the Work: For the Porticos are ſtill Octoſtyle, notwithſtanding the extream Columns are brought ſo near together, to ſtrengthen the Corners; this increaſes the other Intercolumnations, and makes them of that Sort, which *Vitruvius* calls *Areoſtylos*; that is, where the Aperture is two Diameters high, and ſometimes leſs.

BEFORE the PERISTYLE was thus executed, it was carried on with a View of making Decaſtyle Porticos on every Side of it, with Apertures between the Columns of three Diameters high, as in my Original DESIGN; but the Baſes of the Columns, and Part of ſome of the Shafts, were no ſooner ſet, than People in general cry'd out for wider Intercolumnations; which, to oblige them, the Majority of the Committee Reſolved to make in the Manner as they are now executed; and to take upon themſelves any Error the Criticks might diſcover in the Building, by ſuch an Alteration. This PERISTYLE is now

appropriated for a PLACE of EXCHANGE for such as are concerned in the Commerce of BRISTOL; and the Area of it is in Proportion to the Area of the Inside of the ROYAL EXCHANGE in LONDON, as 72 is to 180. So that if the PERISTYLE of the latter will hold 3600 Men upon a full CHANGE, as its generally computed it will, the PERISTYLE of the former will, in the same Proportion, hold 1440 Men.

C, An Arcade, the Middle Part whereof is eighty Feet long, sixteen Feet broad, and sixteen Feet high; it is built with Free-Stone, as the chief Edifice of the GENERAL MARKET; but, at the same Time, it is designed to make Part of the PLACE of EXCHANGE, if it should so happen that Room should hereafter be wanted for the Use of the Merchants and Traders of the CITY, in the PERISTYLE B: The whole Arcade is now six Squares and a Half in Length; but in the Original PLAN it was intended eight Squares in Length; and the Room over it is occasionally to make a Gallery of 105 Feet long, or seven small Chambers, for the Use of the *Rummer Tavern*, now rebuilt and detach'd from the EXCHANGE.

THE Floor of this Arcade, as well as the Floor of the Porticos round the Piazza, or open Area of the PERISTYLE, are upon the same Level with the Floor of the Hall; but the Floor of the Piazza is a Step lower at the Extremities, tho' in the Middle it rises as high as the Top of the Step round it.

BY joining the PERISTYLE B, and the Arcade C, together, it makes an Area equal to One of almost 94 Feet square; and as a PLACE of EXCHANGE of this Size was thought necessary against Ages to come, so those who hindered the Committee from executing it in one COURT have Deprived the CITY of a great Beauty, and Robbed the EXCHANGE of most Part of the Magnificence it might now have had, from the Addition even of 14 Feet in Front.

D, The Exchange Coffee-Houſe, raiſed two Stories high, with a View of making it a TAVERN, like the Houſe E. The Coffee-Room was ſet out thirty-ſix Feet long, thirty Feet broad, and twelve Feet and ſix Inches high, which was all the Altitude the Baſement Story of the Building would admit of, and it is wainſcotted in a common, but regular Manner.

E, The Exchange Tavern, to which the Building over the Hall, A, is now appropriated.

F, G, Veſtibules, for Side Entrances to the PERISTYLE, B, built with Free-Stone; the Floors whereof are two Steps higher than the Floor of the Porticos.

H, I, K, L, M, N, O, HOUSES built for Inſurance, or other Publick Offices; or for Trades-People.

THE Parlour Floor of the Side Houſes, Tavern, and Coffee-Houſe, is five Steps higher than the Floor of the Hall and Porticos; which Elevation was abſolutely neceſſary to admit of a proper Plinth to the Building, as well as to raiſe the Chamber Floor of the Houſes to the Level of the Floor over the Porticos: And if there are ſome Inconveniencies attending it, the good Conveniencies are more than equivalent to them.

THE lower Part of the Houſes, M, N, O, is an Addition to my Original DESIGN for the EXCHANGE; it was fixed upon when the Committee found there was a Probability of purchaſing the Building belonging to the Hoopers Company; and the Purchaſe of that Fabrick not only enabled the Committee to make the EXCHANGE a regular Edifice, but to detach it from the other Buildings of the CITY. That Part of the EXCHANGE which is mark'd with the Letters P, P, P, P, P, P, P, P, is carried up three Stories high above the Ground;

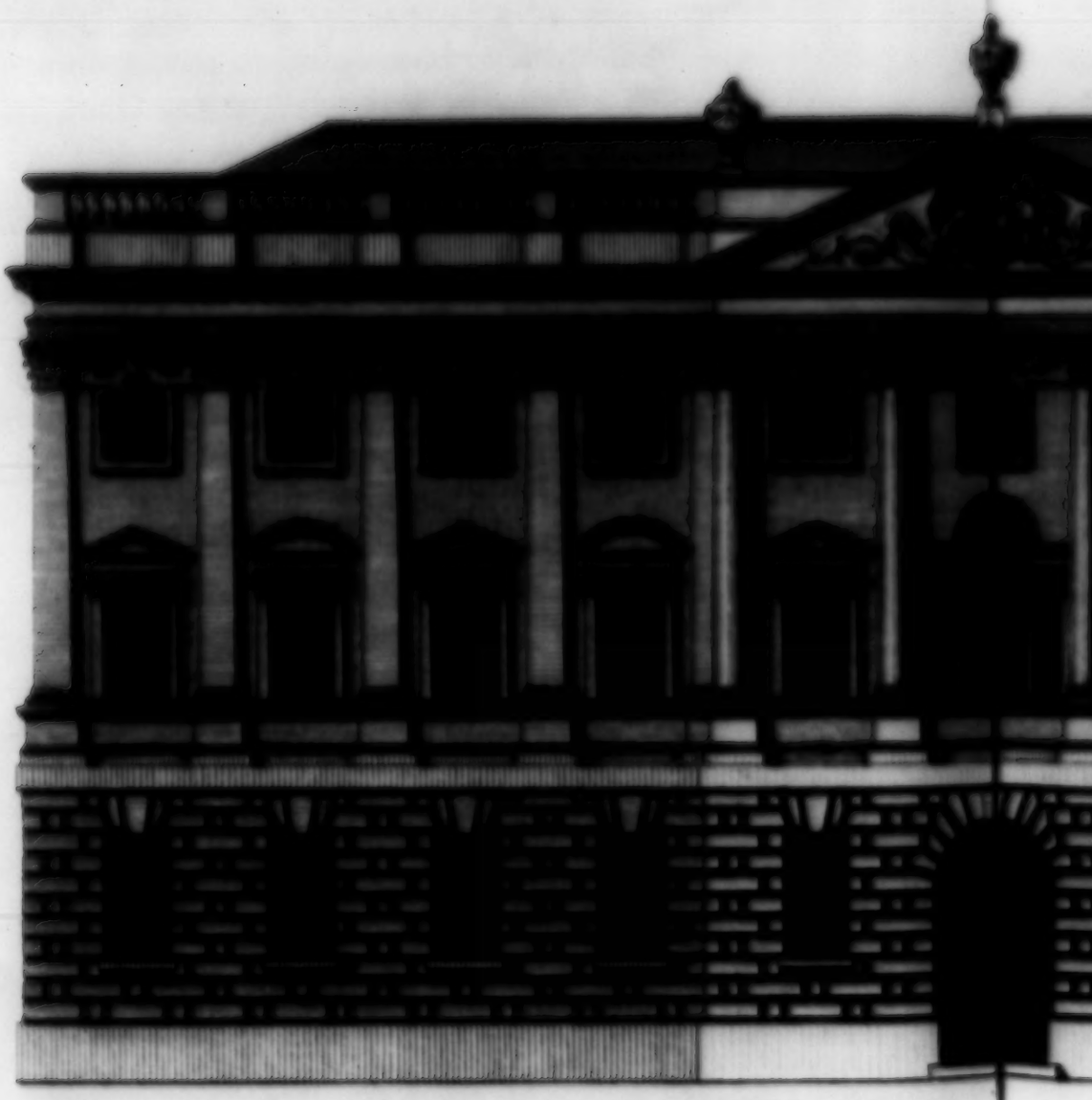
it

it is crowned with a Balluſtrade; and the whole Altitude of it amounts to forty-nine Feet: The Remainder is only thirty-four Feet high, divided into two Stories; and the whole Building, as well Inſide as Outſide, is fronted with white Free-Stone.

The North Front is of the *Corinthian Order*, upon a Ruſtick Baſement, or rather a Baſement compoſed of regular Stones; ſome with chamfered Edges, ſome with plain Edges: The central Part breaks forward, and makes a Tetraſtyle of almoſt whole Columns, ſupporting a Pediment, in the Tympan of which the King's-Arms are carved in Stone: The Chamber Windows are dreſs'd with rich Tabernacles; the Attick Windows are ſquare, with Architraves round them, and they riſe no higher than the Bottom of the Capitals of the *Order*: So that the Spaces between the Capitals of the Columns and Pilaſters in this Front, are filled with Feſtoons, which repreſent *Great-Britain* and the four Quarters of the World, with the chief Products and Manufactures of every Country.

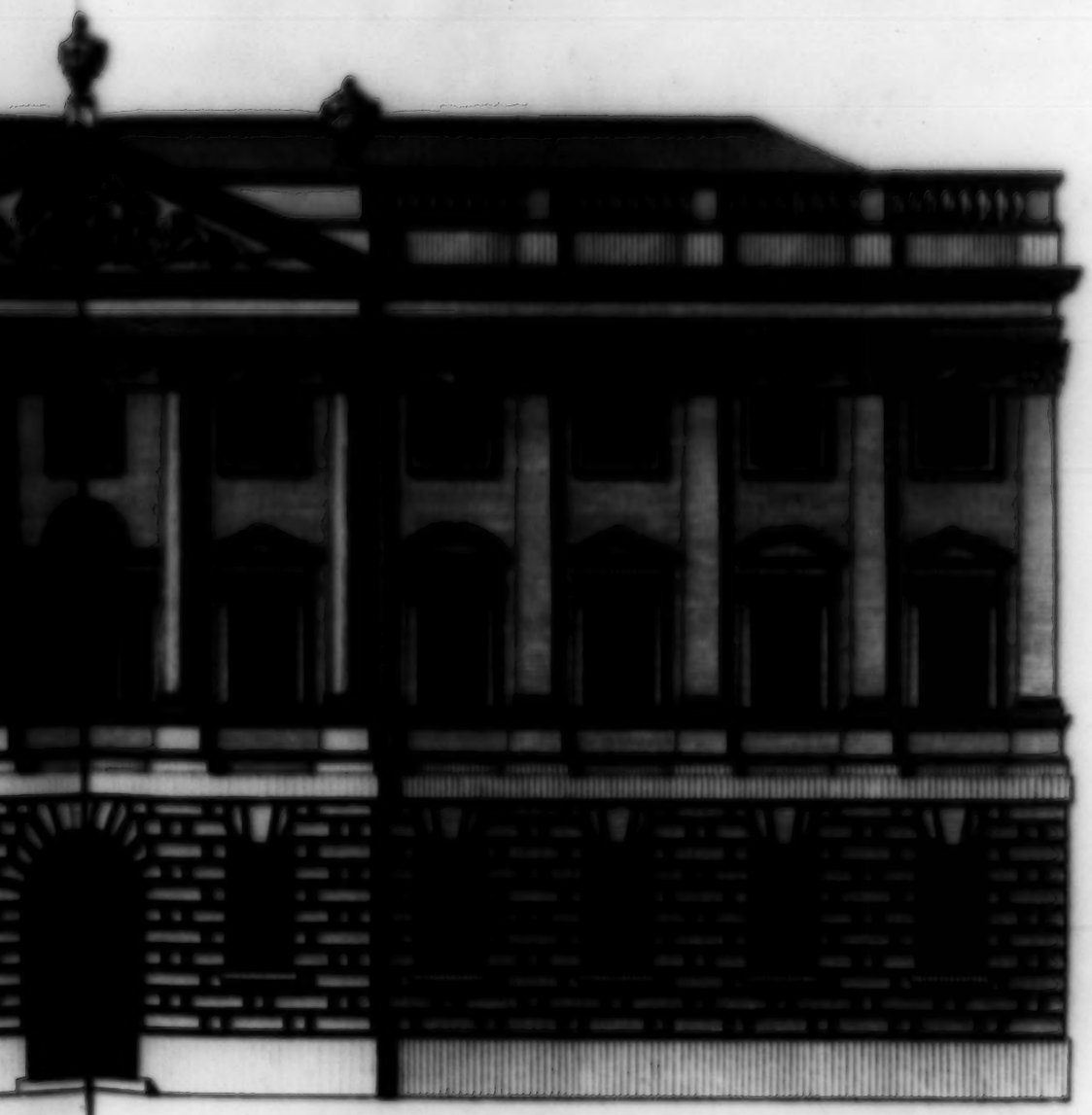
The ſeveral Parts whereof this Front is compoſed are Small, which muſt be attributed chiefly to the narrow Street wherein they are to be view'd: All the Mouldings, proper to be carved, are enriched; the Framing of the Doors of the Front Gate, marked with the Letter Y in the Plan, is divided into a Sort of Moſaick Work, by large Iron Nails; the Pannels of thoſe Doors are adorned with Ornaments in caſt Metal; and the Front of the Building on each Side thoſe Doors are defended from the Street by deep Areas, with handſome Iron Palliſadios upon the bank Walls of thoſe Areas.

So much of the Eaſt Front as lies between the Letters a, a, in the Plan, and belongs to the high Building, is regular; and that Part of it which advances forward between the Letters C, C, was once intended



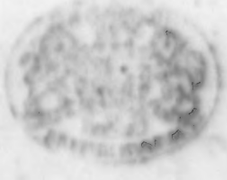
The ELEVATION of the EXCHANGE of BRI

J.Wood Arch.



GE of BRISTOL, as it fronts North to Corn Street.

P. Fourdrinier Sculp.



The Front GATE, and DOORS, of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL.

tended to have been finiſhed with a Pediment; behind which the Funnels of the Chimnies were to have been drawn into a Turret. The next Part of this Front, between the Letters a and c, is likewiſe a regular Work; and if the Remainder of it is collated with the lower Part of the high Building, between the Letters a, b, b, a, a Regularity will appear in the whole for ſix Apertures in Length, on each Side the outward Door of the Veſtibule F.

THE Weſt Front of the EXCHANGE is the very ſame with the Eaſt Front: But the South Front to the GENERAL MARKET is a more perfect Work, it being quite regular: The central Part of this Front breaks forward to ſupport a Pediment, in the Tympan of which the Arms of the CITY are carved in Stone; and over that there is a Turret, in the Front whereof the Dial of a Clock is fixed, for the Uſe of the Market People: The Ends of this Front break forward likewiſe, and are finiſh'd with Domes over that Part of the Arcade mark'd with the Letters T, T, in the PLAN; upon which there are Stone Pedeſtals, wherein ſome of the Funnels of the Chimnies are, with ſome Difficulty, brought up: The Domes and Pedeſtals are ſix Feet more in Flank than they are in Front, which was owing to the Increaſe of the Arcade, from ten to ſixteen Feet in Breadth, at a Time when the reſt of the Building next *All-Saints-Lane*, was ſet out and raiſed to the Level of the Parlour Floor.

THE South Front, and ſo much of the Side Fronts as is Level with it, conſiſts of two Stories of Building, as above; in which the Outſide of the Arcade appears Ruſticated, and all the Apertures in the Remainder of the firſt Story of the Side Fronts, are dreſſed in the ſame Taſte, *i. e.* with Stones cut in a regular Form. The Windows over the Arcade are of the Tabernacle Kind, as well as the central Win-

dows of the ſecond Story of the Side Fronts: The reſt are dreſſed with ſingle Architraves, crowned with their proper Freezes and Cornices; but the Windows of the Attick Story of the high Building, have only ſingle Architraves to adorn their Sides and Heads.

When we enter the Peristyle of this Structure, from the Hall, A, we paſs through a *Corinthian* Gate, arched at Top, and mark'd with the Letter *Z*, in which there are Doors of Iron Work, to keep the former private, while the latter remains open for the Uſe of the Front Houſes.

Upon the Entablature over the Columns of the Peristyle there is a Stone Balluſtrade; from the Top of which, the Line of the Roof of the Porticos, V, W, X, X, aſcends to the Foot of another Balluſtrade, which crowns the Back Wall of thoſe Porticos, and compleats the Peristyle of the Exchange, in that Stile of Building, which ſome Architects, not improperly, call the Theatrical; a Manner of Finiſhing not Reſolved on 'till the Thirteenth Day of *July*, 1742; upon which Day the Form of the Superſtructure of this Fabrick was finally Fixed, and between that Time and the Twenty-firſt Day of *September*, 1743, the Bulk of the whole Building was perform'd.

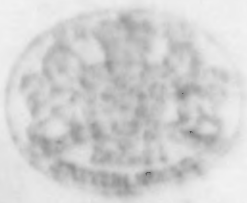
The Roof over the Veſtibules, F, G, and over the Middle of the Arcade, C, is finiſhed with Domes ſupporting Stone Turrets; and thoſe Domes are ſo contrived, as to appear Part of the Architecture of the Inſide of the Building; as ſuch the Fronts of them are raiſed from Pedeſtals in the upper Balluſtrade, directly over the Pilaſters in the Porticos below, mark'd with the Letters Q Q, R R, and S S; and in thoſe Turrets ſome of the Funnels of the Chimnies of the back Work are, with Difficulty, brought up; theſe Domes, as well as thoſe over the Ends

The ELEVATION of the EXCHANGE of BRISTO

J. Wood Arch.

of BRISTOL, as it fronts South to the General Market.

P. Fourdrinier Sculp.



GATE, and DOORS, to the Peristyle of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL.

Ends of the Arcade, having not been abſolutely fixed upon 'till the Work below was further advanced than I cou'd have wiſhed. The Turret at the Back of the PERISTYLE, and facing the principal Entrance of the EXCHANGE, is more than double in Flank; and the Front Part of it is ſurmounted by a ſmall Dome, terminated with a Pine-Apple, carved in Stone. The Dial of a Clock is placed in the North Front of this Turret, for the Uſe of ſuch as frequent the PLACE of EXCHANGE; the MERCHANTS Arms adorn the Weſt Front of the Turret, on the Eaſt Side of the PERISTYLE, as a Complement for their Benefaction of two thouſand Pounds towards the Work; and the moſt antient Arms of the CITY are to be carved on the Eaſt Front of the Turret on the Weſt Side of the PLACE of EXCHANGE.

The South, or back Front of the high Building, with the projecting Wings, is ſo contrived as to appear a diſtinct Work of itſelf, above the ſecond Baluſtrade of the PERISTYLE. Thoſe Wings were not contrived for Ornament, but, as hath been already ſaid, introduced for Terminations to a Gallery once intended to have been built over the North Portico of the PLACE of EXCHANGE; and the central Part of this back Front was purpoſely made to advance a ſmall Matter forward, to ſupport a Pediment; in the Tympan whereof the preſent Arms of the CITY are carved in Stone.

THE Spaces between the Capitals of the Pilaſters in the Porticos of the PERISTYLE, are adorned with Heads and Feſtoons, one Space in Stone, the reſt in Stucco; and the three Quarters of the World, *Aſia*, *Africa*, and *America*, are ſlightly repreſented in the ſame Materials over the Doors, in the Middle of the Porticos X, X, and W. Theſe Doors are dreſſed with Architraves, and are placed in *Corinthian* Gates, walled up to the Extremities of thoſe

Architraves. The Ceiling of the Hall and Portico's is divided by Beams, into the ſame Compartments, as are expreſſed by dotted Lines in the PLAN; and every Compartment has an inriched Architrave round it: The Sofits of the Beams are divided into ſquare Pannels, twice receſſed with inriched Mouldings; the Sofit of the Gate, Z, is divided into the like Pannels, once receſſed; and the Center of every Pannel is adorned with a Flower. The Compartments in the Floor of the Hall and Portico's are filled with flat Stones, laid in a Diagonal Manner; and the Piazza of the PERISTYLE is paved with thin Stones, pitched upon their Edges, in a Form peculiar only to this Work; but deficient of the Draught I made for it, in reſpect to Beauty, Experience rendering it impoſſible to get Materials, in any reaſonable Time, for the Work, as intended; tho', as to the Uſe in keeping the Cellars below Dry, it perfectly anſwers that End.

THE Side Doors of the HALL, A, are like the Side Doors of the PERISTYLE, B, and ſtand in *Corinthian* Gates, walled up to the Architraves with which the Doors are Dreſſed. The Arch of every *Corinthian* Gate in this Room has a Key Stone, carved with a Head, to denote the Buſineſs of the Place to which the Aperture under each of thoſe Arches makes an Entrance: *Mercury*'s Head is next the Coffee-Houſe; *Bacchus*'s Head is next the Tavern; and the Head of the *Dea Pecunia* of the Antients is next the PLACE of EXCHANGE.

As the North Front of the Building is fully enriched, ſo every Moulding of the Work next the PERISTYLE, proper to be carved, is likewiſe enriched, to give the *Corinthian Order* within the ſame Dreſs that it has without; and nothing Material is wanted to compleat the whole EXCHANGE, but Statues of Eminent Men for Trade and Navigation,

The ELEVATION of the EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, as it

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The SECTION of the Building on ea

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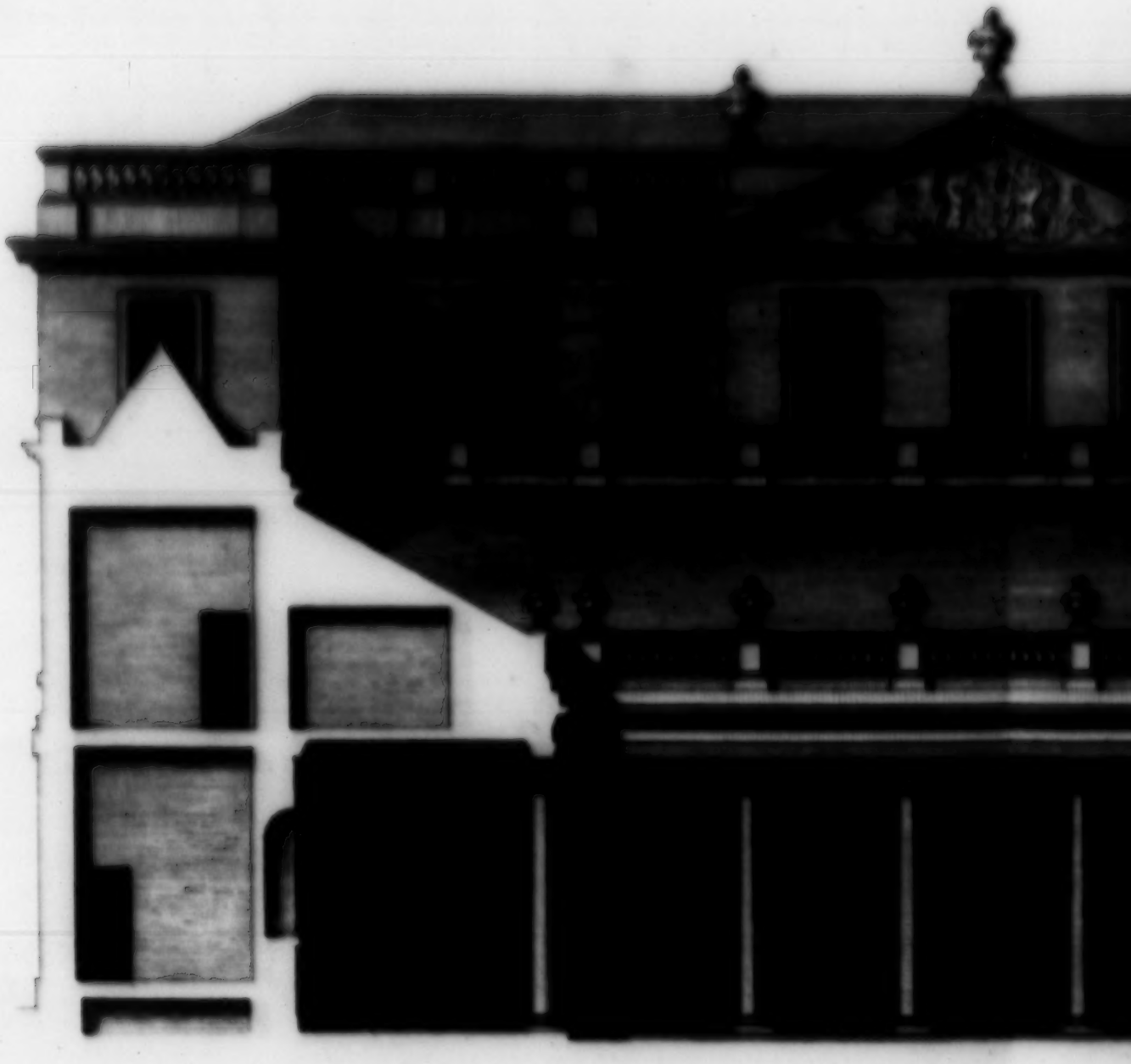

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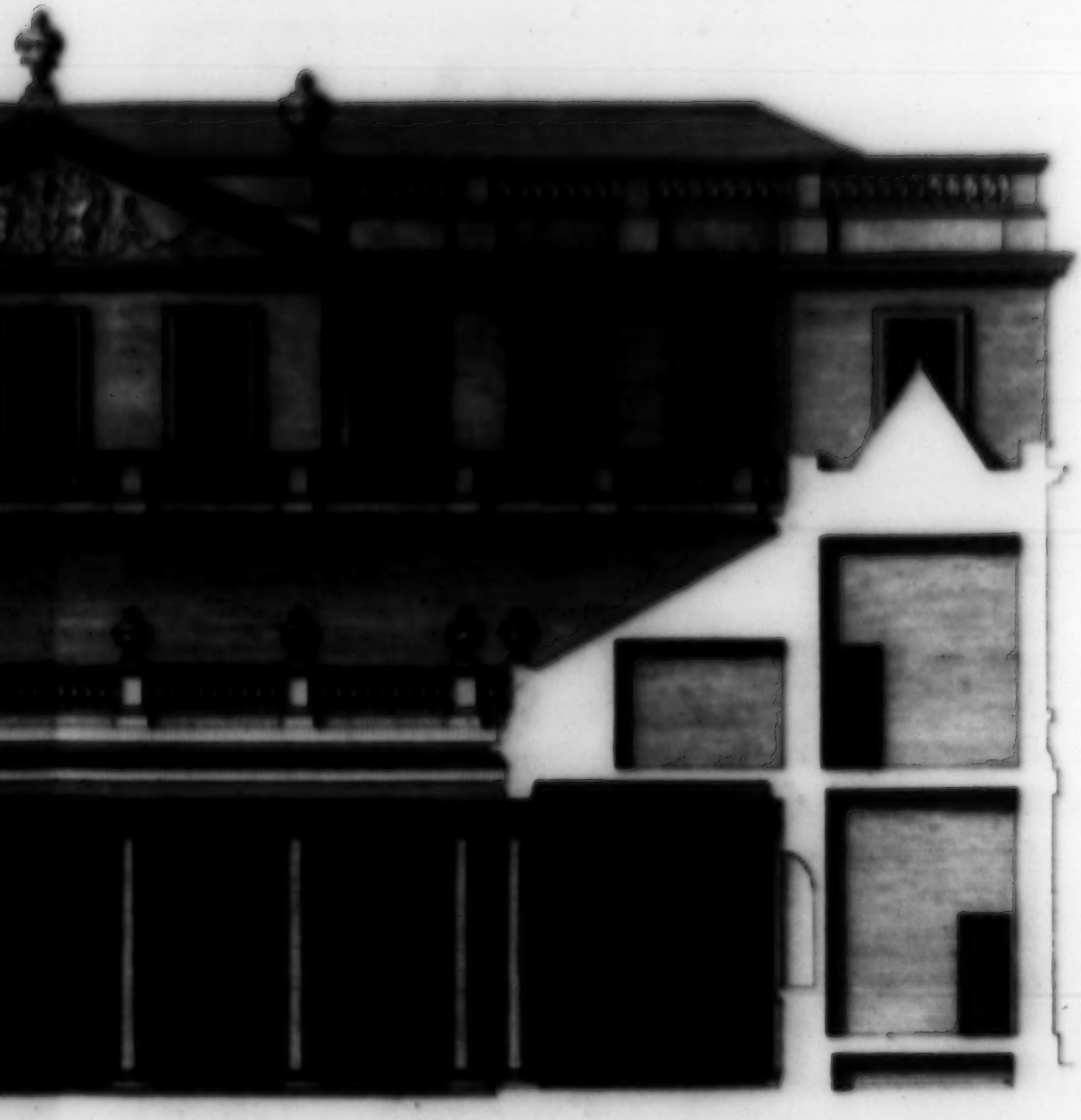

OL, as it fronts South to the PERISTYLE of that Structure.
ther with
ing on each side the PERISTYLE.

gation, to fill the four and twenty Niches in the Porticos of the PERISTYLE; ſince ſuch Statues would not only contribute to the Ornament of that COURT, and, perhaps, excite an Emulation in Youth to Buſineſs, but yield the Curious Matter for Speculation: I propoſed ſuch Statues in Free-Stone; and I alſo timely propoſed to make thoſe Ornaments in the Porticos of Stone, which, by meer Accident, were performed in Stucco.

THE ſeveral Porticos and Domes of this EXCHANGE are all Covered with MILL'D-LEAD; and the Reſt of the Roof is Tiled with *Corniſh Slate*; Materials excellent in their Kind: But yet I have often wiſhed it had been in my Power to have made the Domes in the Back Part of the Building of Stone, as the Dome intended over the Hall, in the Front Part, was deſigned to have been built: All the Covering of the Building, however, being now of a grey Colour, it makes, with the white Stone, an agreeable Appearance to the Eye; which, with the Dreſs of the whole EXCHANGE, may, probably, be thought worth preſerving from the bad Effects of the Smoak of the Town.

THE LINES in the STRUCTURE I have been deſcribing, are extremely well preſerved; and the Building was ſo far compleated by the Beginning of *Auguſt* 1743, that I was then enabled to name the Twenty-firſt of the enſuing Month, as the Day whereon it ſhould be ready to be OPENED: The Committee upon this, came to a Reſolution to Open it in a Publick Manner, upon the Day I had named; and the CORPORATION of BRISTOL having, upon *Saturday* the 10th of *September* 1743, been acquainted with their Deſign, entirely approved of it: So that it was Ordered, that the Market which was to have been held on *Wedneſday* the 21ſt of that Month, ſhould be kept upon *Tueſday* the 20th; and

publick

publick Notice was accordingly given by the Cryer, in the ſeveral Markets of the CITY, upon *Saturday* the 10th, upon *Wedneſday* the 14th, and upon *Saturday* the 17th of the ſame Month of *September*.

UPON the *Friday* before the EXCHANGE was OPENED, the Committee Reſolved to diſcharge, at the Chamber Expence, the poor Priſoners confined in *Newgate* for Debt, that every Citizen might enjoy Liberty upon the Day of OPENING the EXCHANGE: They alſo Reſolved to treat the Workmen, employ'd in the Building, with a handſome Dinner; and Directed that Bread and Wine ſhould be ready at the *Council-Houſe*, after the EXCHANGE ſhould be OPENED, for all Gentlemen, without Diſtinction, to refreſh themſelves with.

THE MAYOR of BRISTOL, on his Part, invited the CORPORATION and SOCIETY of MERCHANTS to Dine with him at the *Merchants-Hall* upon the Day of OPENING the EXCHANGE; and propoſed to the Maſters of the ſeveral Trading Companies to Treat the Members of thoſe Companies with Wine, at their reſpective Halls.

As the EXCHANGE is the ſole Property of the CORPORATION of BRISTOL, ſo it was Ordered, That the Ceremony of OPENING it, ſhould conſiſt in the CORPORATION Meeting the SOCIETY of MERCHANTS, and other Traders of the CITY, at the *Guild-hall* in *Broad-Street*; in Walking in Proceſſion with them from that *Hall* to the EXCHANGE; and in there GIVING them the USE of the PERISTYLE of the Building to Negociate their Affairs in, for the Time to come. Now the Dawn of the Day appointed for doing all this, was Proclaimed to Town and Country, by the Diſcharge of ſeveral Cannons from *Brendon-Hill*, a vaſt high Mount on the Weſt Side of the CITY; and then the Morning was Uſher'd in with Ringing of Bells. The Ships were

ſoon

ſoon Dreſs'd with their proper Colours; Flags were Diſplay'd upon ſome of the Churches; and the Streets through which the Proceſſion was to be made, were, by an Order of the Magiſtrates, Swept and Clear'd of every Annoyance.

ABOUT Eight o'Clock in the Morning, I viewed the Building to ſee that every Thing was in its proper Order, and then waited upon the MAYOR, and made my Report, That the EXCHANGE was ſo far perfected, as I thought neceſſary for its being OPENED for PUBLICK USE. The ſame Morning the MAYOR ſent for the Maſter Workmen of the Building, and made them a Preſent of Five Guineas, to drink to the good Succeſs of the EXCHANGE, and Proſperity to the CITY of BRISTOL: He alſo gave them Five and Twenty Pounds to be expended in Wine or other Liquor, upon their Men. Soon after this, the Keeper of *Newgate* carried the Priſoners, confined in that Goal for Debt, to the MAYOR's Houſe; and Mr. MAYOR, after releaſing them at the Chamber Expence, gave each Perſon ſomething to begin the World with. He likewiſe ordered the Poor People in the *Merchants Alms-Houſe*, *&c.* to be entertained in a handſome Manner, that the Hearts of all Denominations of Men in the CITY might be cheer'd upon the Day of OPENING this Building.

TEN o'Clock was the Time appointed for the General Meeting of ſuch as were concern'd in the Ceremony of OPENING the EXCHANGE, by which Hour, the Parties began to Repair to the *Guild-Hall*; and then, as the Weather was fine, the Streets and Houſes were ſoon lined with an infinite Number of People, from all Parts of the Town and Country. At Eleven the Proceſſion began from that *Hall* in the following Order, or as near it as it was poſſible for the Companies to fall in with the Train.

THE

THE Maſter of an Hoſpital, Governed by the SOCIETY of MERCHANTS, with the Boys under his Tuition led the Way; and they were followed by the Maſter of an Hoſpital, Governed by the MAYOR and ALDERMEN, with the Boys under his Inſtruction: Then came the Exchange-Keeper, in a very handſome Dreſs, with a noble Staff in his Hand; and he was followed by the incorporated Companies of the CITY, in their Formalites, with their Colours borne before them, each of which was carried by a Warden, and the End held up by a little Page: The Maſons Company went Firſt; and the other Companies, by an Order of the MAYOR and ALDERMEN, dated the Third Day of *November*, 1719, ſhould have thus followed; but by the Hurry of the Day, were ſomewhat altered, in Reſpect to their Precedency; Tylers, Porters, Halliers, Carpenters, Tobacco-Pipe Makers, Turners, Hatters, Sadlers, Innholders, Bakers, Butchers, Tanners, Cordwainers, Wire-drawers, Joyners, Dyers, Whitetawers, Hoopers, Smiths, Chirurgeons (with Muſick before them) Weavers and Taylors. The CITY Muſick, with the Addition of Two French Horns, went next after theſe Companies; and they were ſucceeded by the CITY Officers, who walked according to their Rank, the inferior Officers firſt, and the great Officers next; ſuch as the Steward of the Sheriff's-Court, in his Barriſter's Habit, and the Chamberlain in his Gown, bearing a Mace of Gold: The Town-Clerk was ill, and could not attend the Proceſſion. Then came the CORPORATION in their Scarlet Robes, with their Sword of State borne before them by the Sword-Bearer, in hisGown and Cap of Maintenance. The MAYOR, and MAYOR elect, went firſt; the ſenior ALDERMAN, with one of the Repreſentatives in Parliament for the CITY, followed; and after them the

Reſt

Reſt of the CORPORATION walked according to their Seniority and Stations in the BODY: To theſe ſucceeded the Maſter, Wardens, Aſſiſtants, and Members of the *Merchants-Hall*; and the Whole was cloſed with a long Train of Coaches and Chariots, amounting to eight and forty in Number.

THE Parties concerned in the Proceſſion paſſed up *Broad-Street*, down *High-Street*, and ſo on to the *Back*, where the Coaſting Veſſels lie: From thence they went into *Queen-Square*, at the North-Eaſt Corner; and paſſing through the Streets on the Eaſt and South Side of that ſpacious Area, came out upon the Lower-End of the *Key*, oppoſite the very Place where the *Princeſs-Auguſta*, a Letter of Marque Ship, lay Repairing, from the Damages ſhe had received, in the laſt of four Victorious Battles with the *Spaniſh* Privateers, in the preſent War; one of which Privateers her Captain blew up in the King's Channel, and was particularly Rewarded by the Admiralty for his Gallantry, good Conduct and Courage in that brave Action. From this glorious Object, the Proceſſion was continued up the *Key*, where the Ships employ'd in the Foreign Trade lie; and then, from the North-End of it, the Parties entering *Small-Street*, paſſed through that *Street* to the EXCHANGE.

THIS Circuit of Ground was about two thouſand Yards in Length; the whole Train of People and Coaches extended about three Quarters of a Mile; and the Proceſſion laſted about two Hours; during which Time the Bells kept Ringing, and the Cannons Firing.

WHEN the CORPORATION came to the EXCHANGE, they entered the Building by the Gate in the North Front; paſs'd through the Hall to the PERISTYLE; walked along the Porticos thereof to the Weſt; and from thence came towards the Cen-

ter of the Piazza, where an Haut-Pas, or rather a ſquare Plinth, was prepared; which *Thomas Stevens*, Eſq; Steward of the Sheriff's-Court, directly aſcended from the Eaſt-Side: Then the MAYOR commanded Silence to be kept, and the Doors of the Front Gate, which were ſhut to keep out the Populace, to be OPEN'D; after which Mr. *Stevens* addreſſed Himſelf to the MERCHANTS and Tradeſmen, and, by the Order of the CORPORATION, firſt NAMED the Building, and then GAVE them the USE of the PERISTYLE of it for a PLACE of EXCHANGE, in the following Words:

" MR. DAY:
" And
" GENTLEMEN the WARDENS, ASSISTANTS and
" other MEMBERS of the incorporated SOCIETY
" of MERCHANTS within this CITY:——And
" You GENTLEMEN the MASTERS and MEMBERS of the ſeveral TRADING COMPANIES of
" this CITY.

" I AM commanded by the CORPORATION to
" acquaint You, that at a very large Expence
" of their own, and by the Addition of a handſome Benefaction of the SOCIETY of MERCHANTS, they have cauſed this Building, called
" The EXCHANGE of BRISTOL, to be erected
" for your Benefit in general, and more particularly,
" for the better Reception and Accomodation of thoſe
" that are concerned in Mercantile Affairs.
" IT is with great Satisfaction that the Founders
" of this Work, being this Day met, within the
" Area of it, by the whole Collective Trading Body
" of this CITY, ſee their Undertaking happily compleated. A Work which the CORPORATION,
" ever zealous to promote the Welfare of their
" Fellow-

" Fellow-Citizens, have carried on, with a laudable " Application and Ardour, equal to the Greatneſs " of the Deſign. This new EXCHANGE, " now OPENED, they chearfully dedicate to your " Service, more eſpecially to the Service of the " SOCIETY of MERCHANTS, Generous Contribu- " tors to it; and to YOU, from henceforth, they " offer the free USE of it.

" PUBLICK Edifices have, in all Times, been " had in Eſteem, and conſidered as Manifeſtations " of the Wiſdom and Grandeur of a State, and " Accounts of them have been tranſmitted to Po- " ſterity, by eminent Writers in ſucceſſive Ages, " with high Encomiums upon the Promoters of " them.——If ſuch have been the Senſe, and con- " current Opinion of Mankind, in former Ages, " of publick Structures in general, how much " greater Commendation do the Founders of a Fa- " brick of this uſeful Nature deſerve, which is " calculated to promote that Harmony, Unanimity, " and ſocial Intercourſe which ought always to ſubſiſt " amongſt a Trading Free People, and to excite a " a noble Emulation in them of excelling each other " in Induſtry, and Extenſion of Commerce?

" THE Care and Circumſpection of the Donors, " in ſeeing this Work faithfully executed, and in ſo " ſhort a Time accompliſhed, ſhew their Diſpoſi- " tions of Mind, to promote the Publick Good of " this CITY, to be as enlarg'd as their Donation, " and Merit from you Acknowledgments of Appro- " bation and Applauſe.

" To what End, more uſeful and extenſive to " advance the Intereſt of the Publick, could the " CORPORATION have applied their own Money? " or the SOCIETY of MERCHANTS added their " Benefaction? What can more redound to their " Honour, or to the Honour of the CITY itſelf,

" than the Raiſing of a Structure, which, by its " Magnificence, will give Foreigners and Strangers " an Idea of your Generoſity and Worth; and by " its Commodiouſneſs will enable the MERCHANTS " to Aſſemble together, and mutually communi- " cate their Thoughts, and exert their Endeavours, " not only for the Preſervation, but for the Enlarge- " ment of our Foreign Trade, which is the Gran- " deur of the Crown, the Glory of the Kingdom, " the Source of our Riches, and the Strength and " Support of the Commonwealth?

" As our METROPOLIS, with great Reaſon, juſt- " ly boaſts, that the EXCHANGE there was " firſt built in the glorious Reign of Queen *ELI-* " *ZABETH*, who honoured it with her Pre- " ſence, and dignified it with the Title of The " ROYAL EXCHANGE: So may this SE- " COND CITY of ENGLAND, with no leſs Reaſon " Glory in her Happineſs, that This EXCHANGE " is here BUILT, and OPEN'D, under the auſpicious " Reign of his PRESENT MAJESTY, at a Time " when his Arms are employ'd, and his Royal Per- " ſon hazarded in the Defence of the Liberties of " *Europe*, in the Protection of our Trade and Com- " merce, and in the Preſervation of our juſt and " undoubted Rights.

" THAT the TRADE of this CITY may FLOU- " RISH and INCREASE, and the PROSPERITY " and REPUTATION of it be daily ADVANCED, " are the ardent WISHES of the CORPORATION, " this NOBLE PILE, raiſed by their Liberal " Hand, more eminently TESTIFIES than WORDS " can EXPRESS."

WHEN this Speech was ended, the MAYOR, brandiſhing his Hat, began three Huzza's; then Mr. *Stevens* retired from the Haut-Pas, and *Thomas Fane*,

Fane, Eſq; Clerk of the *Merchants-Hall*, taking his Place, and addreſſing Himſelf to the CORPORATION, firſt acknowledged the MERCHANTS Obligations to them, and then return'd them their Thanks; all which was done in theſe Words:

" Mr. MAYOR:
" And
" GENTLEMEN of the CORPORATION.

" THE MERCHANTS are very ſenſible of the " Obligations they are under to You, for " the great Care You have taken in Building this " EXCHANGE; and I am commanded, in this " publick Manner, to return You their Thanks for " the ſame."

THIS being over, Mr. MAYOR began three other Huzza's; after which the CORPORATION, and SOCIETY of MERCHANTS, walking to the Center of the Eaſt Portico, proceeded, with the Muſick, *&c.* before them, round by the South to the North Entrance of the EXCHANGE, and from thence to the *Council-Houſe*, where they refreſhed themſelves with Bread and Wine; and then, in their Coaches, went to the *Merchants-Hall*, to partake of the Entertainment, which the MAYOR had provided for them.

As ſoon as the CORPORATION and SOCIETY of MERCHANTS had withdrawn themſelves from the PERISTYLE of the EXCHANGE, the ſeveral Trading Companies began to retire from the ſame Place, to their reſpective Halls, to regale themſelves with the Wine Mr. MAYOR had preſented them with: The Workmen from guarding the Building likewiſe retired to the Place appointed for them to dine, at the Chamber Expence: But the Populace remained in the PLACE of EXCHANGE, diverting themſelves with

with who should keep Poſſeſſion of the Haut-Pas? Then with ſcrambling for Money, which ſeveral Gentlemen threw amongſt them; next with Kiſſing the Haut-Pas; and laſt of all with ſcrambling for more Money, which they deſired might be diſperſed amongſt them in Copper-Coin, rather than in Silver, to give them the better Opportunity of increaſing their Sport, by ſtriving for it in ſeveral Places at the ſame Time.

THE Evening of this Day was concluded with Ringing of Bells, diſcharging Guns, and making Bonfires in proper Places; All which, with the whole Tranſactions of the Day, was conducted without any ill Accident, or any of thoſe Diſorders too frequently committed at publick Rejoicings; which may be attributed to this, that the Feſtival of OPENING the EXCHANGE was, in the Nature of it, agreeable to all Parties; and if PAGEANTRY on this Occaſion had been thought neceſſary, the Publick had certainly been gratified with it: But what PAGEANTRY could illuſtrate a SOLEMN PROCESSION of the MAGISTRATES and whole COLLECTIVE TRADING BODY of a CITY, that pays the Government a Cuſtom for their Goods of above One Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds a Year?

AUGUST 24, 1745.

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